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MARKET HARBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. W. KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Market Harborough Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	45,166
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to rate books	3,046
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1952	£43,509
Sum represented by a penny rate	£175 2 1

POPULATION :—

Registrar General's estimate	9,970
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TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the population trends during the past ten years :—

1943 ... 9,497	1948 ... 9,810
1944 ... 9,110	1949 ... 9,900
1945 ... 8,713	1950 ... 9,660
1946 ... 8,809	1951 ... 9,915
1947 ... 9,311	1952 ... 9,970

BIRTHS :—

				1951	1952
Live Births :—Legitimate	Male	78	94		
	Female	78	72		
	Total	156	166		
Illegitimate	Male	1	Nil		
	Female	3	5		
	Total	4	5		
Total live births	Male	79	94		
	Female	81	77		
	Total	160	171		
Stillbirths :—Legitimate	Male	Nil	1		
	Female	2	3		
	Total	2	4		

Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population :—

	1951	1952
Market Harborough	16.1	17.1
England and Wales	15.5	15.3

Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough	25.0	29.2
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Stillbirths :—Rate per 1,000 live and still-birth :—

... ..	18.5	22.8
Rate per 1,000 estimated population		
Market Harborough	0.20	0.4
England and Wales	0.36	0.35

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Live Births, Market Harborough	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester-shire	England & Wales
1943	167	17.6	19.6	16.5
1944	181	19.9	21.1	17.6
1945	134	15.4	18.8	16.1
1946	172	19.5	20.6	19.1
1947	193	20.1	21.2	20.5
1948	165	17.1	18.84	17.9
1949	188	18.9	17.35	16.7
1950	176	18.2	16.17	15.8
1951	160	16.1	16.02	15.5
1952	171	17.1	15.67	15.3

DEATHS :—

	1951	1952
Total Number of Deaths :—Male	56	47
Female	54	49
Total	110	96

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population :—

Market Harborough	11.0	9.6
England and Wales	12.5	11.3

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Deaths, Market Harborough	Death Rate per (1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester- shire	England & Wales
1943	111	11.7	11.3	12.1
1944	107	11.7	11.2	11.6
1945	134	15.4	11.1	11.4
1946	87	9.9	10.7	11.5
1947	113	12.1	11.3	12.0
1948	101	10.29	9.77	10.8
1949	116	11.7	10.68	11.7
1950	123	12.5	10.28	11.6
1951	110	11.0	10.74	12.5
1952	96	9.6	10.06	11.3

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

No. of deaths :—

	1951	1952
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil

Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths :—

Market Harborough	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	0.79	0.72

Death of Infants under 1 year of age :—

No. of deaths :—Legitimate Male	2	Nil
Female	3	1
Total	5	1

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough	31.2	5.8
England and Wales	29.6	27.6

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

Legitimate Male	1	Nil
Female	2	1
Total	3	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Registrar General's Classification.

						1952		
						Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, bronchus and lung	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
15.	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
18.	Coronary disease and angina	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	8	14	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	—	7	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	All causes	...	...	...	TOTAL	47	49	96

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector :—Mr. R. W. Turner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Turner for the following information upon the sanitary circumstances of the area :—

WATER SUPPLY.

Mains supplies where provided are satisfactory. Well supplies continue to be a danger to health and are never likely to be made safe.

Water supplies were more satisfactory in respect of quantity than in previous years and cartage of small amounts was necessary only at Husbands Bosworth, Stonton Wyville, Great Easton, Mowsley and Medbourne, where a total of 38,000 gallons was distributed.

Samples of mains supplies of water taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis by the suppliers were found to be satisfactory.

(a) Number of dwelling houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses		1,960
(b) Number of parishes with a piped water supply—		
	from public mains	12
	from private reservoirs	2
(c) Number of parishes without a piped supply of water		17

Negotiations are still proceeding between this Council and the Market Harborough Urban District Council regarding a mains supply to the parishes of Husbands Bosworth and Theddingworth, and permission has been given in the cases of Mowsley, Loughton and Gumley for these parishes to be supplied by the Leicester Corporation. This latter supply is dependant upon the provision of a reservoir in the Lutterworth area.

WELLS.

During the year the water supply to 59 premises was changed from wells to public mains.

No. of wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
No. of houses relying on well supplies	...	...	...	...	807
No. of wells closed	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of samples taken from well for bacteriological examination :—					
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	5

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year	...	8
No. of cesspools abolished during the year	...	9
Total number in the district, December 31st, 1952		208

There are nine filter systems and three land irrigation sewage disposal systems in the district.

New sewers for Smeeton Westerby and joint outfall works at Kibworth are still under construction and are expected to be completed by mid 1953.

New sewers and outfall works at Saddington are in progress.

Schemes for Theddingworth and four of the five Langtons, which have been designed by the Council's Engineers, have been the subject of inquiries held by the Ministry.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total numbers in the district on 31st December, 1952 :—

(a) Privies	...	...	...	...	...	163
(b) Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	74
(c) Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2,606

Number of privies converted to the water carriage system during the year	2
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Number of pail closets converted to the water carriage system during the year	10
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All earth closets and privies are cleansed by the occupiers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is removed fortnightly by direct labour. Two motor vehicles, one of ten, one of seven cubic yards capacity, are used. These cover the whole area. Trade refuse is removed on application. Charges are made up in accordance with the time and distance from the nearest tip.

Four crude tips are in use at Kibworth, Foxton, Hallaton and Husbands Bosworth.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of complaints received	...	...	66
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered			115

Sanitary Inspections of the Area :—

Animal Keeping	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	188
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	...	1,658
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	...	...	...	...	...	1,017
Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	1,153
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	215
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	211
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	26
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	1,373
Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	50
Other Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	121
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	6,050

Notices served during the year :—

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st, 1952 ...	5	4
Issued during year	35	71
Complied with during year	32	72
Statutory action necessary	—	—
Outstanding on December 31st, 1952	3	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Tips are regularly disinfected by Contract with the L.A.E.C. Clearing of small infestations carried out by Council workmen, and occupiers charged on time and material basis. Sewers in the parishes of Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Lubenham were cleared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries operators in conjunction with the Public Health Department.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No. in the area (a) publicly owned	...	...	Nil.
(b) privately owned	...	...	1
No. of inspections made	...	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Dairies (other than dairy farms) and Distributors, Section 8, Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies :—

No. on Register ...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	20

Distributors :—

No. on Register ...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	30

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' licences issued—

Pasteurised	1
Sterilised	—

Supplementary licences issued—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	—

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' licences issued	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary licences issued	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Sampling :—

Ordinary Milk—

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	72
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	...	70
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	2

Biological Examination of Milk.

The two samples of milk found to be infected with tubercle bacilli were investigated and resulted in the slaughter of infected cows. (See Appendix A).

ICE CREAM.

No. of premises registered :—

Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	—
Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	—
Retail only	...	...	...	...	17
No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	—

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no Regional Slaughterhouses in the area. Pigs slaughtered by local cottagers are examined on request. There are no Knackers' Yards in the area.

During the year a total of 204 lbs. of food was condemned, the chief commodity being tinned meats (141 lbs.).

No. of inspections made at meat shops, stores, etc.	60
No. of inspections made at places where food, other than meat, is prepared	145

HOUSING.

1. *New Houses.*

Total number of applications for Council Houses at the end of the year	364
No. of houses completed during the year by Local Authority (permanent)	55
Houses completed by private enterprise	9
Houses in course of erection at end of year, by Local Authority (permanent)	28
Total number of post-war houses completed :—	
(1) Local Authority	272
(2) Private Enterprise	34

2. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	289
No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	762
(b) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be in a state unfit for human habitation ...	6

(c) No. of houses (exclusive of those referred to in sub-heading preceding), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		... ..	208
3. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.</i>			
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers		... ..	30
4. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>			
No such action was taken.			
5. <i>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding.</i>			
The extent of overcrowding is unknown.			

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The common infectious diseases followed the expected trends. The incidence of certain of these diseases is shown in tabular form analysed into age and sex distribution. An outbreak of food poisoning is described in Appendix B.

Immunisation.

Facilities for immunisation against diphtheria continue to be provided free under the terms of the National Health Service Act. 103 children received their primary inoculation, whilst a further 59 children of school age received further treatment to prolong their immunity.

Tuberculosis.

The new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis are displayed in tabular form showing the age and sex distribution.

At the close of the year there were 46 cases of pulmonary and 18 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Register.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE 1. Table showing the cases of infectious diseases notified during the year:—

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Acute Pneumonia		Food Poisoning	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	1	-	2	-	-	1	5	2	-	-
1	-	-	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
3	-	-	6	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	6	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Total:	2	-	19	13	1	3	7	5	9	8

TABLE 2. Table showing new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1
10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	2	6	5	2	2	-	-	1

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections made
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	10
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	55	62
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	18
Total :	82	90

Outwork (Section 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	No. of Workers on List.
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	30

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

Four cases were reported for investigation but it was found possible to remedy the conditions under which the elderly persons concerned were living.

One further case was brought to the notice of the Public Health Department too late for any action to be taken.

APPENDIX A

Routine sampling of raw milks sold in the District showed at the beginning of the year that a certain supply was infected by the tubercle bacillus.

Investigations suggested that this supply may well have been infected for as long as three months during which time the milk had been sold to the 106 families registered with this supplier.

These families included 35 children of school age and 28 children under the age of 5 years, and it was not unexpected when during the first quarter of the year several children were notified as suffering from a recently acquired tuberculosis of glands, to discover that they had all been drinking the infected milk.

With the assistance of Dr. M. C. Brough and members of the County Health Department Staff an investigation was carried out in the affected area and all children were tested to determine if they had yet received a tubercular infection. The results are summarised in the table which follows.

I consider that the universal response of parents in the affected area in submitting their children to this test is worthy of great praise.

SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS

Village Group	Age Group							
	Under 5		5-7		8-11		12-15 plus	
	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.
A	18	10	10	6	11	0	8	0
B	3	11	1	7	9	11	9	6
C	14	23	7	12	3	9	5	3
D	3	36	4	14	1	19	3	3

Group A.—The children of five villages drinking milk known to have been infected.

Group B.—The children of the same five villages drinking milk from other sources.

Group C.—The children of an adjacent five villages receiving milk from other similar sources.

Group D.—The children of two villages receiving milk known to be safe, i.e., either T.T. or pasteurised.

APPENDIX B

Immediately after Christmas, 1951, notifications of food poisoning began to be received.

It was rapidly determined that the illness was caused by eating pork pie and that this District was sharing to a small extent in a large scale outbreak spread over several Counties.

The Authority in whose area the pies were manufactured took immediate steps to control the quality of the product and the supply of infected pies ceased.

Investigations showed that some 100 pies were sold in the Kibworth area and in a sample of 25 purchases followed up it was found that in 10 families all persons having eaten pie had shown symptoms of food poisoning whilst in another 8 families one or more individuals had been affected. The illness in these cases had lasted from one to four days and in no case had the family doctor been consulted. The adults concerned and the parents of sick children had ascribed the illness to seasonal dietary indiscretions.

One can conclude only that the members of the public are uncritical and tolerant of pain and sickness.

